



# MONTANA WETLAND NEWS

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News bits about Montana's Wetlands. To submit your news items, please e-mail [Lynda Saul](mailto:Lynda.Saul@mt.gov).

## MONTANA WETLAND COUNCIL

**Next Council meeting** is Thursday January 19 in Helena at the DEQ Metcalf building from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The focus will be on **wetland mitigation and other aquatic and ecosystem exchange and market mechanisms**. Look for an agenda in early January. The Sept 23 meeting focused on Montana flooding. Past Council meeting summaries can be found at:

<http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/Wetlands/wetlandscouncil.mcp>

The Wetland Council, Randy Gazda, USFWS, and Tom Hinz, Wetlands Legacy Partnership, are **nominating Tim Swanson, TNC (now retired) for a National Wetland Award** for restoration and conservation accomplishments in Southwest Montana. We believe we have a winning nominee, we'll keep you posted.

## PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Congratulations to the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant writers for the award of 3 **NAWCA Standard Grants in 2011 totaling over \$2.8 million**. Project partners are contributing \$6.8 million in additional matching funds. 2011 NAWCA projects include:

- 1) Centennial Valley Restoration and Protection Project III, in Beaverhead County,
- 2) Montana Hi-Line Prairie Wetland Project III, in Sheridan, Roosevelt, Daniels, Valley, Phillips, Blaine, Hill, Liberty and Toole counties, and
- 3) Lower Yellowstone Wetlands Conservation Project Phase 1, in Custer, Dawson, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Stillwater, Treasure and Yellowstone counties. For more information: [NWCA Sept 2011](#)  
[NWCA March 2011](#)

Fiscal Year 2011 **Montana Prairie Pothole Joint Venture** Annual Accomplishment Report which represent the collective work key partners; MFWP, DU, TNC, USFWS and private landowners. Impressive conservation delivery includes:

- Wetland Restored/Enhanced - 513 acres. Upland Restored/Enhanced - 4,354 acres.
- Wetland Protected - 3,219 acres. Upland Protected - 358 acres.

The **Intermountain West Joint Venture** Annual Accomplishment Report for project partners totaled 3,000 acres in Montana.

Ducks Unlimited and its foundation, Wetlands America Trust, recently acquired a 2,158-acre complex of grassland and wetland habitat in north-central Montana's **prairie pothole region**. A USFWS grassland easement will permanently protect the grasslands from being tilled. [Press Release](#).

## FUNDING

[EPA is soliciting proposals](#) that will contribute to **improved water quality** in urban areas. The goal of the Urban Waters Small Grants is to fund research, studies, training, and demonstration projects that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities.

**Plains and Prairie Potholes LCC** Seeking Fiscal Year 2012 Project Proposals due 12/11/11.

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/climate/LCC/PPP/index.cfm>.

## PUBLICATIONS & STUDIES

America's wetlands declined from 2004-2009. The net wetland loss was estimated to be 62,300 acres and underscores the need for continued conservation and restoration efforts, according to a report issued by the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. [\*Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States 2004-2009\*](#), is the most recent of the five reports to Congress reporting on the status and trends of wetlands across much of the United States since the mid-1950s.

## RESOURCES

**Wetland and riparian mapping for Missoula and Flathead Counties** will be completed by January 30, 2011. The MTNHP is beginning to map wetland and riparian areas in the **Upper Musselshell** watershed. You can find out more about this and other mapping projects at <http://mtnhp.org/nwi/>.

Provisional data for both projects can be requested from [Cat McIntyre](#) with the MTNHP or downloaded from the Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) at <http://nriss.mt.gov/>.

Please see the [New TMDL status map](#).

After the Flood Recedes – Future West Conference webinar Nov 3, 2011.– Links:

<http://montana.adobeconnect.com/p4xmhvjujzrz/> and <http://montana.adobeconnect.com/p1wsw10u7cl/>

## TRAININGS & MEETINGS

[Invasive Species Summit](#). Contact [Linnaea Schroeer](#), Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist, DFWP. January 17-18, Helena MT.

[Wildlife Society](#) - The 50th Annual Conference of the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society. February 27-March 2, 2012. Great Falls, MT.

[Floodplain conference](#). Association of Montana Floodplain Managers (AMFM). March 6-8, 2012, Kalispell MT.

[Storm water conference](#). Weathering the Storm: Strategies and Solutions for Managing Storm Water. April 10-12, 2012. Kalispell, MT.

AWRA [Riparian Ecosystems](#): Advancing Science, Economics, and Policy. June 27-29, 2012 Denver CO.

## NEWSLETTERS

Montana Wetland News – <http://deg.mt.gov/wqinfo/wetlands/WetlandNewsletters.mcp>

Association of State Wetland Managers – Wetland Breaking News <http://aswm.org/news/wetland-breaking-news/>

National Wetlands Newsletter - <http://www.wetlandsnewsletter.org/welcome/index.cfm>

Montana Water News – <http://water.montana.edu/mwnewsletter/archives/default.asp>

Montana Natural Heritage Newsletter [http://mtnhp.org/newsletter/2011\\_Fall\\_NL.pdf](http://mtnhp.org/newsletter/2011_Fall_NL.pdf)

Montana Association of Conservation Districts. The Montana Conservationist.

<http://www.macdnet.org/Montana%20Conservationist.htm>

Intermountain West Joint Ventures <http://iwjv.net/>

## WEBSITES

[Montana Wetland Clearinghouse](#)

[Montana Natural Heritage Program wetlands information](#)

[Association of State Wetland Managers](#)

[Montana Watershed Coordination Council](#)

[Montana Floodplain Management](#)

[Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative](#)

[Plains and Prairie Pothole Landscape Conservation Cooperative](#)

[Montana Wetlands Legacy Partnership](#)